

Exchange Report

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Copenhagen Business School -- International Summer University (ISUP)

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Visa Process

I am a Canadian domestic student and therefore I did not require a visa to study in Denmark since I was staying for less than 90 days. As long as you do not exceed 90 days in any [Schengen countries](#), you do not need a visa as a Canadian student studying in Denmark. For students from other countries, you can see a list of Danish Visa requirements [here](#).

If you are doing a full-time exchange (longer than 90 days), you will need to apply for a student permit and Danish residency number. To travel outside of the host country, you simply need your passport.

Insurance

I am covered for 6 weeks of travel insurance from my workplace. Since I was going to be out of the country for 8 weeks, I purchased an additional 2 weeks of travel insurance through RSA (Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company of Canada) and it was approximately \$50 for 2 weeks. I expect the full 8 weeks would be approximately \$200. Luckily I did not have to use this insurance, but I would recommend purchasing some form of insurance for peace of mind.

Arrival/Airport

ISUP is great at welcoming students through a pre-arranged arrival service at the airport on a specific date (about 5 days prior to the start of classes). They will communicate details of this arrival service through emails prior to the start date of the program. It is required to register for this arrival service. I hear this arrival service is great at arranging travel to CBS housing and administering housing details for students upon arrival. Unfortunately I could not attend this arrival service due to work obligations on that day. However, I found getting from the airport to CBS on my own was extremely easy. The metro is very simple to find at the airport, and you simply need to take about a 20-30 minute train straight from the airport to the station nearest CBS (Fasanvej station) or wherever your housing is.

Academics

Program:

- There were between 10-15 hours of class per week, depending on the week. Classes are offered in three 2.5 hour time slots per day, Monday-Friday and each class is scheduled two days a week. Your schedule will vary depending on the courses you take. I took two courses, for the equivalent of 6.0 Schulich credits. I had class from 10:45-1:15 and 1:30-4:00 each Monday and Wednesday, with two weeks having an extra day of class on Fridays. There were 5 weeks of class in total, with the final week held for exams/final papers.
- The grades are 100% based on final exam, which can be in the form of a take-home assignment (final paper), regular exam, or oral exam. Both of my classes culminated in a

final 15 page paper. For this paper, you had to formulate a research question by about week 3 of the program, for professor approval. You can begin working on your paper at any time during the program, but it takes about 3 weeks before you really have a good grasp of any of the materials and can begin working on it.

Classroom:

- The classroom was about 70% Danish students, 20% other European students (German, Swedish, UK, etc.) and about 10% other countries (Chinese, American, etc.). Most students were part time. The Danish system is very different in that the student's tuition is paid for and they are even paid a salary to go to school and work 16 hours per week. Most students will be working part time a couple days a week and going to school on the other days.

Teaching:

- The style of teaching was somewhat similar to Schulich. I had one Danish professor and coincidentally, one Canadian professor. I found the Danish way of teaching more theoretical than the Canadian way. As previously mentioned, Danish student's tuition is paid for so most Danish students complete their masters immediately following the completion of their bachelor degree. This means the students generally do not have as much work experience as Schulich students. Therefore, the teaching is more heavily based on theory, especially classical theory. There is less discussion in the class and it is less case-based than Schulich classes. The emphasis is placed on critically evaluating the theories and your final papers will have an expectation of more theory than most Schulich students will be used to. However, this difference is easy to get used to and more than achievable. Students in the class are very mature and well-practiced in this critical thinking.
- Another major difference is the emphasis (or lack of emphasis) on classroom attendance and participation. While it is the norm for Schulich grades to be ~20% based on classroom participation, in Denmark it is not allowed to base any grades on attendance, and they will proudly tell you this on your first day. Therefore, it is quite normal to have many students missing class. However, I would recommend attending as most of the learning that I found valuable was from talking to other International/Danish students in class and getting a different perspective of looking at things.

Orientation

There was an orientation day about 2 days prior to the start of classes. I found this very helpful as they went over how classes worked, they gave a tour of campus, provided the rules for biking and they even provided suggestions for restaurants and things to do at various price points. There is also a social program available for students at a cost of about \$175 CAD.

Housing Arrangements

ISUP will send an email regarding housing arrangements in May and students can apply for housing then. Because I am a little bit older than most students and I planned on having a few visitors, I chose to get my own Airbnb off campus, which was easy to get, albeit at a premium. I stayed in the neighbourhood between Frederiksberg and Vesterbro and I loved that neighbourhood. It was about an 8 minute bike to school and 10 minute bike to downtown. If you are looking to integrate more with the other students and save money, I would definitely recommend taking advantage of the housing services.

Expenses

Danish people are among the happiest in the world because of their strong social safety nets - but happiness comes at a cost! Living in Copenhagen is very expensive. The currency is the Danish kroner.

- Eating and Drinking -. The most expensive thing about living in Copenhagen is eating and drinking out. Be prepared to pay about \$15 CAD for a drink and \$20 per average meal (not a fancy one). However, I found that food and drinks purchased from the grocery store were actually about equivalent to Canadian prices. The best way to save money is to cook and eat in. The good news is that drinking in public places is legal, and many people take advantage of this (responsibly) to save money. You can bring a bottle of wine to a park or down by the water to enjoy a drink at a reasonable cost. This is part of the Danish lifestyle of living well and enjoying the moment. Once you have paid for housing, eating and drinking will be your only real expenses (outside of any travelling you might want to do).
- Cell Phone - a SIM card is extremely cheap and will give you more than what you need. You can get a SIM card for about \$20-30 with 60gb of data. If you participate in the social program you will get a SIM card.

Things to Do

Copenhagen is not a city full of tourist attractions and sightseeing, but a city to live as the Danes do and enjoy life! I personally found the top tourist attractions to be disappointing (such as Tivoli or Carlsberg brewery). In my opinion, the best way to experience Copenhagen is to do what the locals do. Here were some of my favourite things to do:



Swimming! For a Nordic country, it is surprising how much swimming there is in Denmark (in the summer). You can jump in anywhere along the canal (really - anywhere) and you will find people lying out for the day if it's a nice day out. They have "harbour baths" which they have built in various places by the water, for people to swim. There are also multiple wine bars/restaurants where you can hang out and swim.

- *Biking* - Copenhagen is a biking city! It is so easy to bike there (compared to Toronto), with dedicated bike lanes everywhere. Luckily, a free bike came with my Airbnb, which I took advantage of.
- Have a picnic in the *King's Garden*
- *Rent a GoBoat or Friendship* - it's a great way to see some of the sights from the canal, jumping off the boat and swimming wherever you like.
- *Christiania* - despite its reputation, it's a really interesting place to walk around and see the cool houses and community.
- *Travel around!* Take advantage of the proximity to other European countries. I visited Stockholm, Berlin, Poland, and a few places in Italy for long weekends.



Nyhavn - this is the iconic Copenhagen spot, with colourful houses and lots of restaurants

The [VisitCopenhagen](https://www.visitcopenhagen.com) website actually has a number of good recommendations on it.

Restaurants/Eating

- Meat Packing District - this area has the best restaurants, although a bit pricier: Mother's Pizza, War Pigs and, for a special night out, Kødbyens Fiskebar is incredible (but expensive).
- Brus - a cool brewery with a nice patio
- Emmery's - has great fresh bread. The bread in Copenhagen is the BEST.
- Reffen - this is a food-truck market which you can ride your bike to. Every night it has various food and drinks. I went there a few times it was so good.
- Mikkeller Brewery



Overall, Copenhagen is AMAZING! The quality of life is high due to the emphasis they place on living well. They truly work to live rather than work to live and care about the health of the community over the individual. It is common to see people in the park, swimming or eating out at any day of the week. The school was easy to adjust to, the students were friendly and my only regret is that I wish it was longer!